

Essential Gnostic Scriptures Paperback

The Everything Gnostic Gospels Book The Gnostic Bible Essential Gnostic Scriptures The Gnostic Discoveries The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus The Gnostic Gospels The Nag Hammadi Scriptures The Secret Book of John My Paperback Book In the Shadow of the Temple Forensic Scriptures The Bible's Cutting Room Floor The Secret Teachings of Jesus First Century Gnosticism Opening the Bible Spirituality and the Occult Hidden Wisdom Polemical Encounters On Christianity, New Age and Reincarnation The Quest Meera Lester Willis Barnstone Marvin Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Julian Scutts Oskar Skarsaune Brian Arthur Brown Joel M. Hoffman Gerard van Groningen Roger Ferlo Brian Gibbons Guy Stroumsa Olav Hammer Jaime T. Licaucó

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the books of the bible are not the only ancient writings to tell the stories of jesus and his followers other gnostic texts have also been found as well the everything gnostic gospels book provides an overview of gnosticism and the historical figures who are believed to be the authors thomas james mary magdalene and others this accessible guide explores the following questions what do gnostics believe who were the authors of the gnostic gospels how are the bible scriptures and gnostic gospels different how are they the same how were official christian texts chosen learn about the different versions of christianity that battled for supremacy in the first centuries after the death of jesus this entertaining and educational book describes each of the gnostic gospels providing insight into the turbulent times of early christianity as well as the renewed contemporary interest in these mysterious writings

the most comprehensive collection of gnostic literature ever published this volume is the result of a unique collaboration between a renowned poet translator and a leading scholar of early christian texts

the people we've come to call gnostics were passionate advocates of the view that salvation comes through knowledge and personal experience and their passion shines through in the remarkable body of writings they produced over a period of more than a millennium and a half willis barnstone and marvin meyer have created a translation that brings the gnostic voices to us from across the centuries with remarkable power and beauty beginning with texts from the earliest years of christianity including material from the nag hammadi library and continuing all the way up to expressions of gnostic wisdom found within islam and in the cathar movement of the middle ages the twenty one texts included here serve as a compact introduction to gnosticism and its principal ideas and they also provide an entrance to the pleasures of gnostic literature in general representing as they do the greatest masterpieces of that tradition

the gnostic discoveries opens with a thrilling adventure story the discovery of the ancient papyri at nag hammadi hidden in sealed jars and lost for centuries the papyri have revealed much about early christianity including alternative views that were suppressed by the early church author marvin meyer traces the history and impact of this great find on the church right up to our current beliefs and popular cultural fascination with this officially suppressed secret knowledge about jesus and his followers marvin meyer is one of the foremost scholars on gnosticism the nag hammadi library and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange california among his more recent books are the gospels of mary the gospel of thomas the hidden sayings of jesus the gnostic bible and secret gospels essays on thomas and the secret gospel of mark the author's concise presentation will appeal to many readers meyer writes clearly bringing both the people and the times of the early gnostic writings to life and making them accessible to scholar and layperson alike publishers weekly

in the gnostic gospels of jesus world renowned gnostic literature expert marvin meyer presents every known gnostic gospel and jesus text

gathered together in one book included are the gospel of thomas the gospel of philip and the gospel of mary along with lesser known texts like the secret book of john which some scholars regard as the second part of the new testament gospel of john detailed notes from meyer explain everything the reader needs to know to understand the text the texts in the gnostic gospels of jesus present an image of jesus as the ultimate wisdom teacher who scandalized listeners by his radical egalitarianism and his insistence on living the message he taught marvin meyer is the foremost expert on the nag hammadi texts and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies co chair of the department of religious studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange ca marv is one of the original secret gospels scholars who has done an enormous amount of work to bring these texts to light all of his research on the nag hammadi texts is having an incredible impact on our knowledge of early christian history it is virtually redefining it dr elaine pagels princeton university

selected by the modern library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time the gnostic gospels is a landmark study of the long buried roots of christianity a work of luminous scholarship and wide popular appeal first published in 1979 to critical acclaim winning the national book award and the national book critics circle award the gnostic gospels has continued to grow in reputation and influence over the past two decades it is now widely recognized as one of the most brilliant and accessible histories of early christian spirituality published in our time in 1945 an egyptian peasant unearthed what proved to be the gnostic gospels thirteen papyrus volumes that expounded a radically different view of the life and teachings of jesus christ from that of the new testament in this spellbinding book renowned religious scholar elaine pagels elucidates the mysteries and meanings of these sacred texts both in the world of the first christians and in the context of christianity today with insight and passion pagels explores a remarkable range of recently discovered gospels including the gospel of thomas and the gospel of mary magdalene to show how a variety of christianities emerged at a time of extraordinary spiritual upheaval some christians questioned the need for clergy and church doctrine and taught that the divine could be discovered through spiritual search many others like buddhists and hindus sought enlightenment and access to god within such explorations raised questions was the resurrection to be understood symbolically and not literally was god to be envisioned only in masculine form or feminine as well was martyrdom a necessary or worthy expression of faith these early christians dared to ask questions that orthodox christians later suppressed and their explorations led to profoundly different visions of jesus and his message brilliant provocative and stunning in its implications the gnostic gospels is a radical eloquent reconsideration of the origins of the christian faith

the nag hammadi scriptures edited by marvin meyer is the most complete up to date one volume english language edition of the renowned library of gnostic manuscripts discovered in egypt in 1945 which rivaled the dead sea scrolls find in significance it includes the gospel of thomas the gospel of mary and the recently discovered gospel of judas as well as other gnostic gospels and sacred texts this volume also includes introductory essays notes tables glossary index etc to help the reader understand the context and contemporary significance of these texts which have shed new light on early christianity and ancient thought the compilation of ancient manuscripts that constitute the nag hammadi scriptures is a discovery that challenges everything we thought we knew about the early christian church ancient judaism and greco roman religions

this ancient gnostic text can be a companion for your own spiritual quest the secret book of john is the most significant and influential text of the ancient gnostic religion part of the library of books found in nag hammadi egypt in 1945 this central myth of gnosticism tells the story of how god fell from perfect oneness to imprisonment in the material world and how by knowing our divine nature and our divine origins that we are one with god we reverse god s descent and find our salvation the secret book of john the gnostic gospel annotated explained decodes the principal themes historical foundation and spiritual contexts of this challenging yet fundamental gnostic teaching drawing connections to christianity buddhism hinduism kabbalistic judaism and sufism davies focuses on the mythology and psychology of the gnostic religious quest he illuminates the gnostics ardent call for self awareness and introspection and the empowering message that divine wholeness will be restored not by worshiping false gods in an illusory material world but by our recognition of the inherent divinity within ourselves now you can experience and understand this foundational teaching even if you have no previous knowledge of gnosticism this skylight illuminations edition presents the most important and valued book in gnostic religion with insightful yet unobtrusive commentary it provides deeper insight into the understanding that in gnosticism the distinction between savior and saved ceases to exist you must save yourself and in doing so save god

the allegory as a literary device is too often dismissed as being artificial and contrived yet one scholar admits that an allegory arises spontaneously when a writer allows a symbolic traveller make one step towards a symbolic mountain therefore the resultant allegory cannot be subject to the writer s full control and conscious powers of prediction and determination it has a life of its own

oskar skarsaune makes a fresh contribution to our understanding of the development of the early church in its practice e.g. worship, baptism and eucharist and doctrine e.g. scripture, christology, pneumatology. this book offers the new perspective that christians were in ongoing and deep conversation with jews during the early centuries leading up to constantine. the common perception of a drastic parting of the ways after the destruction of jerusalem in 70 A.D. has tended to distort our understanding of the succeeding decades and centuries of jewish and christian history. notwithstanding the fact that there were points of bitterness and strife, the relationship is better viewed as that of a younger and older sibling. there is much evidence of interaction between the early christians and rabbinic judaism both at the level of leadership and laypeople, and this left its impression on the church. skarsaune gives us numerous fascinating episodic and topical glimpses into this untold story.

in forensic scriptures brian arthur brown presents a long overdue diagram of sources of the pentateuch from hebrew scriptures, a new perspective on authorship of the document known as q in the christian scriptures, an acceptable entrance into particular disciplines of scriptural criticism for muslims, and an exciting new paradigm from islam identifying the role women may have played in production of the qur'an and the bible.

there's more to the story: a scholar and translator reveals the history of the bible and the parts that were left out by accident or design. the bible you usually read is not the complete story. some holy writings were left out for political or theological reasons; others simply because of the physical restrictions of ancient bookmaking technology. at times the compilers of the bible skipped information that they assumed everyone knew. some passages were even omitted by accident. in the bible's cutting room floor, acclaimed translator dr. joel m. hoffman gives us the stories and other texts that didn't make it into the bible, even though they offer penetrating insight into the bible and its teachings. the book of genesis tells us about adam and eve's time in the garden of eden, but not their saga after they get kicked out, or the lessons they have for us about good and evil. the bible introduces us to abraham, but it doesn't include the troubling story of his early life, which explains how he came to reject idolatry to become the father of monotheism. and while there are only 150 psalms in today's bible, there used to be many more. dr. hoffman deftly brings these and other ancient scriptural texts to life, exploring how they offer new answers to some of the most fundamental and universal questions people ask about their lives. an impressive blend of history, linguistics, and religious scholarship, the bible's cutting room floor reveals what's missing from your bible, who left it out, and why it is so important. hoffman also provides an accessible and entertaining history of the context in which the rejected works arose, a fascinating account of how the dead sea scrolls came to light in the mid-20th century, and what they include. an analysis of josephus's contributions to history and the relationship between the septuagint, the greek translation of the bible, and the hebrew scriptures. publishers weekly: a wonderful book to confirm the beliefs of the faithful, to strengthen those whose faith begs for more information, and to enlighten those who reject the stories of the bible as mere fiction. kirkus reviews.

*in december 1945, two egyptian fellahin digging for natural fertilizer in the nile river valley unearthed a sealed storage jar. the jar proved to hold treasure of an unexpected sort: a collection of some fifty-two ancient manuscripts, most of which reflect the teachings of a mystical religious movement we call gnosticism. from the greek word *gnosis* (knowledge), the texts are also, with few exceptions, christian documents, and thus they provide us with valuable new information about the character of the early church and about the gnostic christians within the church. in this volume marvin w. meyer has produced a new english translation for general readers of four of the most important and revealing of these early christian texts: the secret book of james, the gospel of thomas, the book of thomas, and the secret book of john.*

for many people, the bible is strange and unfamiliar territory, impossible to navigate without a certain kind of knowledge and skill. roger ferlo leads his readers through the practical difficulties of reading the bible, offering advice that is true to the way anglicans have read scripture from the time of tyndale and cranmer. ferlo explains why the bible looks the way it does, the theology that lies behind the many different versions and translations, how to deal with the notes and cross references, and the practical tools needed for studying the bible. above all, he teaches the importance of approaching the bible with respect. a book with a long history, complex traditions, and diverse authorship, which must be read on its own terms, ferlo identifies the ground rules of reading scripture for anglicans, noting the particular ways anglicans have read the bible for revelation, insight, and ethical directives, and suggesting that scripture itself contains many clues for unlocking its own mysteries.

spirituality and the occult argues against the widely held view that occult spiritualities are marginal to western culture, showing that the esoteric tradition is unfairly neglected in western culture and that much of what we take to be modern derives at least in part from this tradition. it casts a fresh, intriguing, and persuasive perspective on intellectual and cultural history in the west. brian gibbons identifies the

influence and continued presence of esoteric mystical movements in disciplines such as medicine science philosophy freudian and jungian psychology radical political movements imaginative literature

this book investigates the problem of esoteric traditions in early christianity their origin and their transformation in patristic hermeneutics in the west as well as in the east it argues that these traditions eventually formed the basis of nascent christian mysticism in late antiquity these esoteric traditions do not reflect the influence of greek mystery religions as has often been claimed but rather seem to stem from the jewish background of christianity they were adopted by various gnostic teachings a fact which helps explaining their eventual disappearance from patristic literature the eleven chapters study each a different aspect of the problem including the questions of gnostic and manichaean esotericism this book will be of interest to all students of religious history in late antiquity revised and extended paperback edition originally published in 1996 please click here for details

in its historical development from late antiquity to the present western esotericism has repeatedly been the issue of polemical discourse this volume engages the polemical structures that underlie both the identities within and the controversy about esoteric currents in european history from jewish and christian kabbalah through heretical discourse and interconfessional polemics in early modernity to the legitimization of esoteric identity in modern culture the 12 chapters accompanied by an editors introduction provide a cornucopia of relevant cases that are interpreted in a framework of polemical discourse and othering this volume sheds new light on the ultimately polemical structure of western esotericism and thus opens new vistas for further research into esoteric discourse

reading this book requires an open and questioning mind not a mind that has already accepted just one answer i for one have benefited greatly by reading his words and listening to his lectures from the foreword by sir jason winters kgsj licaucio in this book boldly discourses topics that might be unconventional for most people but very thought provoking such topics might be disturbing but they will satiate the intellectually curious and those who don t settle only in a single point of view

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